

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

In the Claims:

1. (Original) A jewelry piece comprising:
 - a) a gemstone mount assembly including:
 - 1) a base member defining a base cavity and having first and second opposed ends, the base member tapering from the first end to the second end and defining a base opening in the first end; and
 - 2) a bezel member mounted on the first end of the base member and defining a bezel opening;
 - 3) wherein the bezel member is bonded to the first end of the base member; and
 - b) a gemstone mounted in the gemstone mount assembly and captured between the base member and the bezel member, wherein the gemstone is received in the base cavity and extends through the base opening and the bezel opening.
2. (Currently amended) The jewelry piece of Claim 1 ~~wherein~~ including at least one weld spot or weld strip between the bezel member ~~is welded to~~ and the first end of the base member.
3. (Currently amended) The jewelry piece of Claim 2 ~~wherein~~ including at least one laser weld spot or laser weld strip between the bezel member ~~is laser welded to~~ and the first end of the base member.
4. (Currently amended) The jewelry piece of Claim 1 ~~wherein~~ including at least one spot or strip of solder between the bezel member ~~is soldered to~~ and the first end of the base member.

5. (Currently amended) The jewelry piece of Claim 1 ~~wherein~~ including at least one spot or strip of adhesive between the bezel member ~~is adhered to~~ and the first end of the base member.

6. (Original) The jewelry piece of Claim 1 wherein the bezel member is further secured to the first end of the base member by a friction fit engagement.

7. (Original) The jewelry piece of Claim 1 wherein the base member has an outer shape that is substantially conical or frusto-conical.

8. (Original) The jewelry piece of Claim 1 wherein the base member has an outer shape that is substantially pyramidal or frusto-pyramidal.

9. (Original) The jewelry piece of Claim 1 wherein the base opening is substantially oval.

10. (Original) The jewelry piece of Claim 1 wherein the base member includes a plurality of separately formed, coupled segments.

11. (Original) The jewelry piece of Claim 1 wherein the base member is unitarily formed.

12. (Original) The jewelry piece of Claim 1 including a decorative embossment defined in an outer surface of the base member.

13. (Original) The jewelry piece of Claim 1 including a decorative cutout defined in an outer surface of the base member and communicating with the base cavity.

14. (Original) The jewelry piece of Claim 1 including a recess formed in a rear surface of the bezel member, wherein a portion of the first end of the base member is received in the recess.

15. (Original) The jewelry piece of Claim 1 including an earring post secured to the second end of the base member.

16. (Original) The jewelry piece of Claim 1 wherein the gemstone includes a base portion disposed in the base cavity, a crown extending through and beyond the bezel member opposite the base member, and a girdle disposed between the bezel member and the base member.

17. (Original) A gemstone mount assembly for use with a gemstone, the gemstone mount assembly comprising:

- a) a base member defining a base cavity and having first and second opposed ends, the base member tapering from the first end to the second end and defining a base opening in the first end; and
- b) a bezel member mounted on the first end of the base member and defining a bezel opening;
- c) wherein the bezel member is bonded to the first end of the base member; and
- d) wherein the base member and the bezel member are adapted to capture the gemstone therebetween such that the gemstone is received in the base cavity and extends through the base opening and the bezel opening.

18. (Currently amended) The gemstone mount assembly of Claim 17 ~~wherein~~ including at least one weld spot or weld strip between the bezel member is ~~welded to~~ and the first end of the base member.

19. (Currently amended) The gemstone mount assembly of Claim 18 ~~wherein~~ including at least one laser weld spot or laser weld strip between the bezel member ~~is laser welded to~~ and the first end of the base member.

20. (Currently amended) The gemstone mount assembly of Claim 17 ~~wherein~~ including at least one spot or strip of solder between the bezel member is ~~soldered to~~ and the first end of the base member.

21. (Currently amended) The gemstone mount assembly of Claim 17 ~~wherein~~ including at least one spot or strip of adhesive between the bezel member is ~~adhered to~~ and the first end of the base member.

22. (Original) The gemstone mount assembly of Claim 17 wherein the bezel member is further secured to the first end of the base member by a friction fit engagement.

23. (Original) The gemstone mount assembly of Claim 17 wherein the base member has an outer shape that is substantially conical or frusto-conical.

24. (Original) The gemstone mount assembly of Claim 17 wherein the base member has an outer shape that is substantially pyramidal or frusto-pyramidal.

25. (Original) The gemstone mount assembly of Claim 17 wherein the base opening is substantially oval.

26. (Original) The gemstone mount assembly of Claim 17 wherein the base member includes a plurality of separately formed, coupled segments.

27. (Original) The gemstone mount assembly of Claim 17 wherein the base member is unitarily formed.

28. (Original) The gemstone mount assembly of Claim 17 including a decorative embossment defined in an outer surface of the base member.

29. (Original) The gemstone mount assembly of Claim 17 including a decorative cutout defined in an outer surface of the base member and communicating with the base cavity.

30. (Original) The gemstone mount assembly of Claim 17 including a recess formed in a rear surface of the bezel member, wherein a portion of the first end of the base member is received in the recess.

31. (Original) The gemstone mount assembly of Claim 17 including an earring post secured to the second end of the base member.

32. (Original) The gemstone mount assembly of Claim 17 wherein the base member and the bezel member are adapted to receive the gemstone such that a base portion of the gemstone is disposed in the base cavity, a crown extending through and beyond the bezel member opposite the base member, and a girdle disposed between the bezel member and the base member.

33. (Currently amended) A jewelry piece comprising:

a) a gemstone mount assembly including:

1) a base member defining a base cavity and having first and second opposed ends, the base member tapering from the first end to the second end and defining a base opening in the first end; and

2) a bezel member mounted on the first end of the base member and defining a bezel opening;

3) wherein at least one of a decorative embossment and a decorative cutout is defined in an outer surface of the base member;
and

b) a gemstone mounted in the gemstone mount assembly and captured between the base member and the bezel member, wherein the gemstone is received in the base cavity and extends through the base opening and the bezel opening;

c) wherein the at least one of a decorative embossment and a decorative cutout represents a brand designation.

34. (Original) The jewelry piece of Claim 33 wherein a decorative embossment is defined in the outer surface of the base member.

35. (Original) The jewelry piece of Claim 33 wherein a decorative cutout is defined in the outer surface of the base member and communicates with the base cavity.

36. (Currently amended) A gemstone mount assembly for use with a gemstone, the gemstone mount assembly comprising:

a) a base member defining a base cavity and having first and second opposed ends, the base member tapering from the first end to the second end and defining a base opening in the first end; and

b) a bezel member mounted on the first end of the base member and defining a bezel opening;

c) wherein at least one of a decorative embossment and a decorative cutout is defined in an outer surface of the base member; ~~and~~

d) wherein the base member and the bezel member are adapted to capture the gemstone therebetween such that the gemstone is received in the base cavity and extends through the base opening and the bezel opening; and

e) wherein the at least one of a decorative embossment and a decorative cutout represents a brand designation.

37. (Original) The gemstone mount assembly of Claim 36 wherein a decorative embossment is defined in the outer surface of the base member.

38. (Original) The gemstone mount assembly of Claim 36 wherein a decorative cutout is defined in the outer surface of the base member and communicates with the base cavity.

39-49. (Cancelled).